WENDELL POST

Vol.1/No.4 August 1977 25¢

Kavolius Resigns

Newly elected Selectboard member Anthony Kavolius submitted his resignation, effective July 28, 1977.

In an open letter addressed to the citizens of Wendell, Mr. Kavolius explained:

"I have accepted a position within the framework of the U.S. Dept. of Labor developing programs for elderly citizens in Franklin, Berkshere, Hampden, Hampshere counties in Mass.and New Hampshere, called the "GREEN THUMB INC." sponsored by the National Farmers Union.

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(SEE "CANDIDATES" ON PAGE 8)

Old Home Day

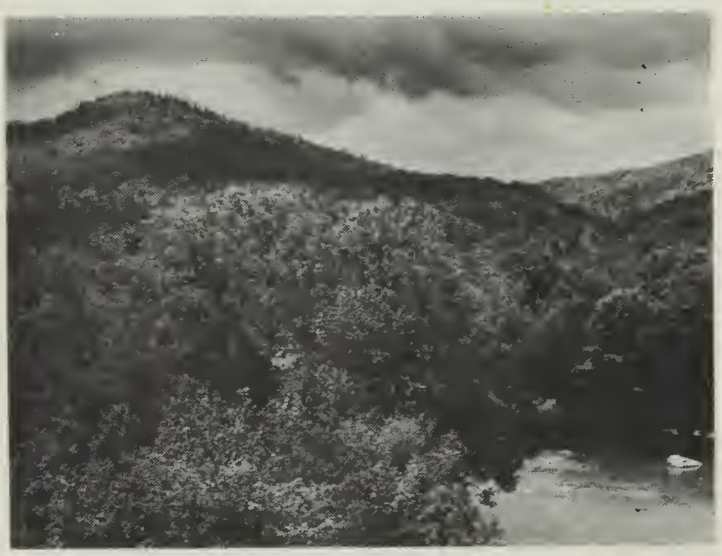
Aug. 27th

Let's get together and renew the spark of old-time togetherness at another Old Home Day. This day is set aside for various events and activities from morning until night.

Some of the fun will include: children's dress-up parade with tricycle and bicycle decorating, lots of adult and childrens games just for fun, Wendell vegetable and canning fair, bake sales, pony rides, craft and historical exhibitions, a clothing and book exchange, food concessions, beer concession, raffles, and in the evening the famous Diemand Chicken Bar-B-Que. (Play it safe and buy your tickets in advance from Al Diemand.) And lots more, too!

Interested folks who want to participate in planning the fun, or who have activities to offer, please get in touch with the present acting Planning Committee chairpersons, Pat Judice 4-3529, or Kathy Becker 4-7432.

(MORE ON PAGE 3)



Bear Mountain summer of 77

photo by Rob Bliss

South Bank Rejected

by Gary Nielson

It was a startling announcement, and many residents along the Depot area reacted with unabashed jubilance. On July 14th, the State DPW rejected because of environmental problems, the proposed relocation of Rte. 2 along the southern bank of the Millers River. In its place, DPW commissioners announced they will push for construction along a northern bypass above Erving--- and hope to start the $13 million project within 3 years.

Adverse reports filed by 2 federal agencies, the Department of Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency, apparently dealt the surprise blow to the south bank alternative, which had been a heavy favorite of the Franklin County Planning Board, as well as the Erving and Wendell Selectboards (both voted unanimous approval earlier this year.)

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OPINION

Holding Public Office in Wendell

The imminent special election for selectman is producing an uneasiness beyond circumstances presented by this situation. More and more the issue is does the town government represent and administer the will of Wendell citizens or is it merely a functionary of Massachusetts state bureaucracy.

A quick look at the town budget would make it evident that the school and highway departments are the two entries that consume most of our tax dollar. Yet the expenditure of these monies is tightly regulated by rules over which we have little significant control. In some cases the control could be achieved only by professional red-tape wranglers we can not afford.

Dealing with this conflict is an overwhelming task. Anyone who has served conscientiously on a local committee knows this to be true. By the time one unravels what the state tells us must be done, we can hardly remember what we wanted to do in the first place.

It is time for candidates for town offices to commit themselves to the wishes of Wendell citizens. Certainly, we have our differences about how our affairs should be run. This is not all bad. A co-operative combining of these different viewpoints could invent imaginative solutions to many of our problems. It would be better to make the best of these differences, than to be dependendent on a faraway authority that is indifferent or ignorant of our interests and desires.

Too easily,we have confined our role as citizens to the day we cast our ballots. Our elected officials need help more days than election day. Now is a good time for them to ask for that assistance and to expect that they should not have to bear the burden of their tasks alone. This requires, however, that they put effort into contacting their electorate, as well as, satisfying the regulations imposed by distant bureaucracies.

The signs are that the bureaucracies are increasingly incompetent in running our lives. We should look for new ways where we can help each other live our own lives.

Speeding

The excessive speed at which we travel our roads is an irresposibility that many of us share. It is part of the conflict of living a rural life while depending on a livelihood in another town. But there are no good excuses.

The recent effort by the Wendell Police to slow us down is to be commended. Reports have it that this effort has been carried out with judicious good will. Such an attitude is vital in any attempt to achieve the common good.

Modifying our robust driving habits could contribute to easing the pace and the sense of urgency that currently characterizes the progress of our town. Exceeding the speed limit makes the individual driver liable to the cinsequences of the law, But more significantly, raises the probability of a tradgedy we would all share.

Where is the "Wendell Post"?

We, who have pulled together the fledgling issues of the WENDELL POST, would like to report our progress There have been some mistakes, but we are learning. The response we have received indicates that we have a a future.

Sales for the first two issues have almost paid for the cost of printing the paper. Thank you to those folks that have given us a boost.

Our irratic appearance this summer does not mean we have given up. Rather, our gardens and other summer diversions and jobs have led us astray. That ultimate layout day has slipped by several Sundays (Day of Rest?) which is the only day we seem to be able to get together. We have been working to organize our effort and hope that the publication can be more regular in the future.

At this point monthly publication seems to be the maximum limit of our energy. Our service would be significantly more effective if the "Wendell Post" were issued bi-weekly, but we can not handle the work yet. We need more regular reporters and we eagerly invite volunteers.

The light of August is upon us. See you in the sharp snap of September.

WENDELL POST

Vol. 1 Issue 4.

Editorial Board
Kathy Becker Lewis Becker
Michael Idoine Gary Nielson

This issue's staff
Kathy Becker Lois Johnson
Lewis Becker Daria Nielson
Annie Diemand Gary Nielson
Michael Idoine Penny Ricketts

Please send all manuscripts, photos, letters to:

Wendell Post
Box 76
Wendell Depot, Mass. 01380

or call Gary Nielson at 544-7036 or Kathy Becker at 544-7432.

The Wendell Post may be obtained at the following locations;
Ballou's Store
Gibbs Store
Wendell Center Post Office
Diemand's Egg Farm
The Red Oak Cafe
Our Daily Bread Food Co-op
Carroll's in Millers Falls
If you want a copy of the Wendell Post delivered or if you would like to help deliver the paper, please contact Anne Diemand at 544-2762

. (ANNOUNCEMENT)

A retraction has been requested by Ed Chase regarding his reported opinion concerning Wendell's past police chiefs.

The Reasonable Egg

Al Diemand was obviously pleased to read that eggs are still the best buy. Eggs have gone up only 25% in price since the time of Calvin Coolidge. In contrast, Hamburger has risen 531%.

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I will do babysitting for $1 an hour, clean house for $2 an hour. Mow for $1.75 as hour. Call 4-3494 Ask for Penny Ricketts.

(continued from page 1)

Strong environmental objections raised by a group of 25 Wendell residents at local DPW hearings in March had seemed to fall on deaf ears as county and local leaders pushed for "the least objectionable alternative"--- across Depot terrain.

But as usual, a day of inter- and intra-bureaucratic negotiations is worth a year of vocal local protest. Government listens to government better than it hears the people. In this case, however, it is still questionable whether Rte. 2, debated now for over 20 years, will ever actually be relocated. The State is, after all, broke, and the DPW has openly admitted that it cares very little about the Western portion of Massachusetts, anyway.

LATE NEWS ON RTE. 2

There will be a Special Meeting of the Conservation Commission with state officials in regard to Rte. 2 and a possible reversal of the latest DPW decision not to make the road through the Bear Mountain area. The public is invited to the meeting, which will be held Wednesday, August 27, at7:30 in the Townhall.

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MORE WENDELL OLD HOME DAY

The Wendell Fire Dept. announces that the big new fire truck will lead the 10:00 children's parade around the common at Wendell Old Home Day. Children are invited to dress up both themselves and their tricycles or bicycles for the event.

Later in the day, Capt. Harry Williston will give rides on the forestry truck. Adults will be needed to help protect the children by riding on the back of the truck.

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Wendell gardeners are invited to bring their prize fresh or canned produce to display at Wendell Old Home Day.

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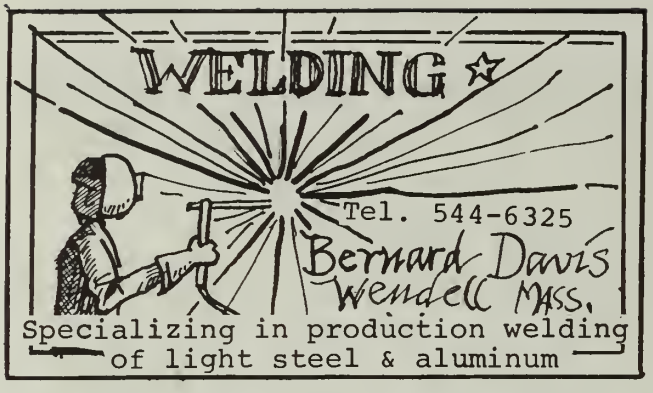
The Wendell Free Library is sponsoring a book and clothing exchange at Wendell Old Home Day. For pick-up of your unwanted books or articles of clothing, call Kathy. 4-7432.



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BECOME A DANCER IN OUR OLD HOME DAY DANCE RECITAL !!!

If you are between the ages of four and ten, I wish to invite you to join our dance recital. We will be doing Indian dances and dances to animal stories plus more! Practice will be every Monday and Wednesday until Aug. 27 (OLD HOME DAY) at the town hall starting at 9 am.
Call Daria Nielson 544-7036
Ages 4&5 9 am to 10 am
Ages 6 to 10 10 to 11:30 am.

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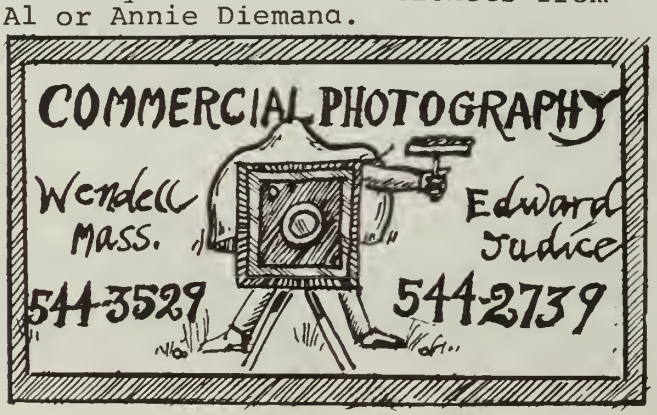
Wendell is famous for its dinners. This Old Home Day will be no exception, with a Chicken-Bar-B-Que by Al Diemand once again promising to please the hungry crowd. The meal will include chicken, roll, cranberry sauce, salad, baked beans and soda. Tickets are $3.50 for adults and $2.00 for children. The wise will buy advance sale tickets from Al or Annie Diemand.

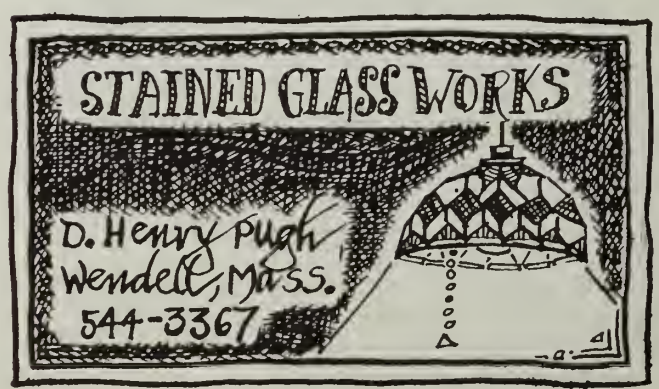
Police Log

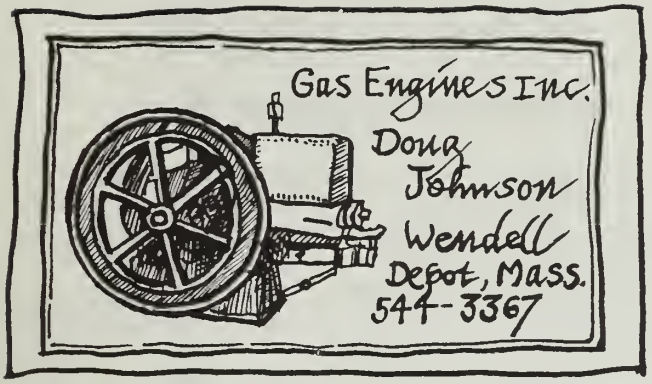
5-18-77 Break at the home of Jack Ellis; Channel Master scanner stolen.
5-22-77 Break at Bourbeaus on Farley cut-off road; nothing was repoted stolen.
5-25-77 Break at the trailer of Tony Papadogiorgakis; $600 stolen.
6-4-77 Ray Avery reported his riding lawn mower stolen from his front yard.
6-19-77 Break at the Castanguay house on Colleyville Rd. the following items stolen: Stuffed partridge, stuffed fox, stuffed bobcat, stuffed rabbit with horns, Lloyds stereo and Layfayette speakers, light bulbs.
7-4-77 Break at the camp of Mason Phelps, stolen: skill drywall screw driver, Black & Decker 1/4 inch power saw, 2 carbide saw blades 7", Sears 7" power saw, Sears 7 1/4 in. power saw.
7-11-77 Matthew J. Bluth arrested and charged with Larceny of a motor vehicle. Vehicle recovered.
7-24-77 Break at the trailer of Robert Cornwell, taken: Stereo receiver, norelco razor, tackle box, 20" fan, speakers, record albums, leather jacket, clock,tape recorder, $75. in change.
7-24-77 Joe Diemand reported a .22 magnum lever-astion rifle (Sears) taken from his house during a family barbeque. Rifle has a scope and was loaded.

7-25-77 Arrested Steven Chiasson, Randy Jones, David Starkey, and Donald Starkey in connection with the Cornwell break. Recovered all property except the clock and the $75. in change.
7-24-77 Break at the trailer of Thomas Bardsley, $45. in cash taken.

None of the above mentioned breaks have been solved. Anyone having any information that might be of help to us is asked to contact the Wendell Police Dept.







Wendell's Record's

On June 13, 1977 a survey of public records and related storage facilities by the Office of the Supervisor of Public Records was made by Albert H. Whittaker, Chief Records Analyst. His findings were sent to the Selectmen and the Town Clerk, the latter being the source of our information. The contents of the letter concerned upgrading the preservation and management of Town records.

Obviously it looks as if the Townhall vault needs attention. In its present condition, the vault containing the records now violates State regulations. The vault does not carry the State 6 hr. fire resistance rating, and must be replaced within the year. In addition, the vault walls have been found to be "penetrated", and must be sealed. Temperature/humidity controls must be installed to preserve the records.

Of further concern are the records kept in the homes of town officers, which lack fire-proof and theft resistant facilities exposing certain records of permanent value to being unnecessarily exposed to damage. Whittaker added that "the residual records held in homes by reason of convenience should be housed in fire-proof cabinets. This would apply particularly to the records of the Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Tax Collector, the loss of which would cause severe inconvenience to the Town."

Whittaker made a strong recommendation that most records should be removed to a central town vault to aid in effecient retrieval, as well as for much better protection. He suggests that a preliminary inventory of all records be conducted as soon as possible, perhaps using CETA program people to prevent additional demands on the time of regular Town employees.

W.F.D. Practice Drills

Photo by Gary Nielson

Chief Ricketts,& volunteers Anne Diemand and Lt. Vic Coy gather after coming out of a blazing barn in a live practice drill on the property of Ed & Pat Judice. by Ann Diemand

For the last two months the Wendell Fire Department has been practicing live drills at their meetings, where we have been experiencing mock fires.

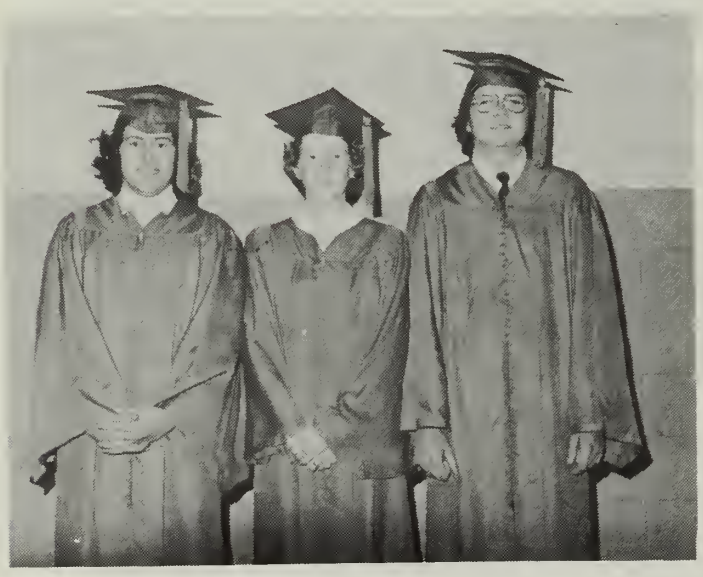
One of the practice drills occured across the road from Hartjens. In this "relay pumping" drill, water was pumped from the pond to one of the fire trucks, and in turn pumped into a second truck. This second truck then laid its hose to the fake fire site. Most of the department then practiced with the nozzle and its different patterns. We were also shown how to put out "flammable liquid fires".

In another practice session, a junk car donated by Joe Diemand was set ablaze. Different methods of rescuing people from inside the car were used. Volunteers were taught how to break windows so that glass would not shatter inside onto any car passangers. Safety was continously emphasized.

In the latest of the drills, Ed and Pat Judice's barn was burned in order to practice structural firefighting. We used the portable pump from pond water behind the barn for the water supply. Also we used the portable "Scott air tanks to aid us in entering the building and to fight the fire from inside.

As one of the volunteers, I feel that this practice has been excellent training for us. It has provided us with an opportunity to work together under conditions which are very real and life-like, as well as a chance to become familiar with more of the equipment.

Wendell's Mahar seniors smile in anticipation of graduation ceremonies. Left to right, the graduates are: Donna Davis, Everett Ricketts, Jr., and Lori Powling.



The other half of the Class of '77 are, left to right; Michael Wing. Marjori Lewis, and Mark Burnett.

News From the Golden Agers

The Wendell Golden Agers met last wednesday at the home of Bill and Betty Thompson on West Road. Guests present were Leila Beasley of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Nancy Peterson of Long Island and Isabell Noonan of Holyoke.

After the business meeting, refreshments were served and later cards were played, with Leila Beasley and Belinda Parsons as winners. The next meeting will be at the home of Romeo Caron on August 24th at noon, a hot dog roast is planned. Final plans for Wendell Old Home Day will be discussed. Senior citizens are welcome. Contact Kathleen Bezio or Maurice Lauro for information.

Maple Valley School's graduating seniors say farewell at their graduation exercises. Left to right, the graduates are; Kim Bell, Adrienne Wolf, Doug Shannon, and Jay Lipp.

(PICTURES)

8 x 10 copies of the graduates pictures are available through the Wendell Post at $5.00 per print, or $7.50 for two.

WOODWORKS
HAND CRAFTED
CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE
MAIN STREET
WENDELL, MASS. 01379
617-544-6853

Greetings from your friends in Warwick

Social Notes

GIRL SCOUTS

Any girls wanting to join Girl Scouts for next year call 4-3494 and ask for Penny.

Ella Hebert reports that MARVIN ELLIS called from Florida and asked to be remembered to his friends. The 84 yr. old brother of Glen Ellis,and uncle of Don Ellis, says that he is doing very well.

Ella Hebert also reports that ERNEST DUTSHER is presently residing at the Fleetwood Nursing Home. Cards and letters would be appreciated, Room 149 a.

Wendell welcomes ELVIN HAWES, who recently purchased land from Ella Hebert on Locke Hill Rd. to make his retirement home.

Maurice Lauro is recruperating at his home after a two week illness at the Franklin County Hospital in Greenfield. He would like to thank the many friends and neighbors who visited and sent cards.

New Officers for Golden Agers
President----Cathleen Bezio
V. President-Agnes Telling
Secretary----Maurice Lauro
Treasurer----Virginia Wheeler
Program Committee-Virginia Wheeler
Maurice Lauro
Elsie Diemand
Floral Director---Betty Thompson

Births

Congratulations to Pliny and Margaret Stebbins on the birth of their daughter, Molly Amai Stebbins. The baby was born at the Franklin County Hospital on June 8th, and weighed 8lb. and 6oz.

Congratulations to Bernard and Judy Davis on the birth of their son, Jesse Clark Davis, at the Franklin County Hospital on June 10, at 2:05 in the afternoon. The child weighed 9lb. and 14½ oz.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bruce and Tina Cohen on the birth of their son Christopher Meade Cohen, August 12, 1977 at Wesson Women's Hospital in Springfield, Mass.

Posting Place

SPECIAL MEETING OF CONSERVATION

COMMITTE ******* Meet with state Officials on Rte. 2, Wendnesday, August 27, at 7:30 in the Townhall.

SPECIAL ELECTION**********Oct. 17th to fill the unexpired term of Selectperson. Candidates nomination papers must be in Sept. 12, before 5:00 P.M. The last day of voter registration is Sept. 27th.

VOTING- If you make a mistake on a ballot, do not attempt to correct it. Return the spoiled ballot to the ballot clerks and request a new one. Up to 3 ballots may be used, one at a time. And please, do not write stories on your ballots, for the whole ballot must then be invalidated.

POLL HOURS- At state elections and primaries, the polls must be open a minimum of 10 hrs., from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. At town election, the mimimum time that the polls must be open is 4 hrs. If the people want longer polling hours, contact the Selectmen. The Selectment set the polling hours.

Vacancies

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Brenda Vincent's term has expired, and she has decided not to seek reappointment. Persons interested in serving can notify the other two members, Charles Smith and Neal Feltman (544-7416) or the Board of Selectmen.

CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR

Maurice Lauro has resigned as Civil Defense Director. Anyone interested may contact the Board of Selectmen.

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The provisions of the Hatch Act and other mitigating circumstances pre-clude my continuance as Selectmen. I had therefore no choice but to re-sign as Selectmen in Wendell.

Any citizen in Wendell over the age of 55 who meets the wage guide lines can qualify for part time work (20-24 hrs. per week) under this program. If anyone is interested please contact me at 544-3791 for a personal interview.

Anthony Kavolius

Selectboard Candidates

Maurice Cole of Morse Village Road has taken out, completed and turned in his nomination papers for Selectperson.

When contacted over the phone, Mr. Cole said that he would prefer not to make an official statement at that moment, and that he would rather wait until the nomination papers were found to be in order.

In general, however; Mr. Cole did express several factors which motivated him to run for public office. "We can all stand some economy", he chuckled. He went on to say that he would like to do what he could for the town.

Scott Hunter of Ross Road has taken out nomination papers for the office of Selectperson. Scott says his campaign will be one of honesty and openness. If elected, he would hope to contribute to the greater awareness of voters by posting both the minutes and the agenda of Selectboard meetings.

He feels that the establishing of a finance committee would provide a needed system of checks and balances. And he is concerned about helping to promote the restoration and repair of the community church.

Scott would like to see deliberate discussion concerning roads, town office space, storing of town records, town projects, and youth development programs.

Scott expects that Wendell will expand, and wants to keep the growth in keeping with the historic atmosphere of this town and of Western Massachusetts.

Risky Traveling

ROAD
UNDER REPAIR
Persons using this road
---------do so---------
AT THEIR OWN RISK

Persons frequently using the Wendell Depot Road may have idly questioned the meaning of this sign as they make their way down a road all ready notorious for its variety of sharp curves and its steep gradient.

As Wendell's legal council, Att. Delbert Witty was out of town, Warwick Att. Les Black researched this question and came up with the following answer.

The right to sue a town because of negligence in creating or permitting a defect in the public way is given in Massachusetts law, however; during construction and repair of a road, if the town takes sufficient means to warn persons using the road, the town is not liable for accidents on that portion of the highway, and cannot be sued. No matter how long the construction takes, as long as the sign is up, it is the burden of the person traveling the road to be careful.

If the sign is down over a number of days, or obscured, Mr. Black could not say how the court might decide in the case of an accident involving local traffic, or particularly if a stranger were involved.

The Wendell Post wishes to thank Attorney Black for his willing cooperation and advise.

CETA Crew Clears Brush

A brush clearing crew has recently begun work in Wendell under a Title VI CETA contract. The project is designed to clear brush from the Town's highway rights of way.

$28,337 is federally provided to pay for 6 laborers and a foreman for the 18 week project. Selectman Don Ellis will oversee the work for the Selectboard.

Melvin Sweeney is the foreman. Rick James, Arthur Brunault, Al Targhetto, Leo Jones, Leonard Skreeba, Glen Tucker all work on the crew. Harry Williston is the treasurer for the project.